

REMARKS

Claims 27, 29-31, 34, 36-39, 52, and 54-56 are now pending in the application. Claims 48-51 and 53 are cancelled by this amendment. Claims 1-22 are printed because the present application is a continuation of a re-issue application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections and objections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Applicants submit that the amendments and remarks included herein constitute a complete response to the Office Action mailed March 3, 2006. Applicants are also including a Supplemental Declaration with this amendment. Applicants submit that the Supplemental Declaration, in addition to the amendments and remarks included herein, place the present application in condition for allowance.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Examiner states Claims 27, 29-31 stand objected to because of the following informalities: In Claim 29, line 13, "a relatively" should be "relatively". This objection is respectfully traversed.

During a telephone interview with the Examiner, the Examiner confirmed that the objection was to an agreement of a tense. Thus, Claims 29 and 48 have been non-narrowingly amended to delete "components" and replace – component – therefore. This corrects the tense agreement and overcomes the objection.

Applicant submits that support for the amendments to Claims 48 and 49 can be found in the originally filed application, such as in Claim 13 of the U.S. Patent No. 5,592,939, which is the issued patent upon which the present application is a re-issue.

DOUBLE PATENTING REJECTION

Claims 48, 50, 51, and 53 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as that of Claims 4-6, 11 of prior U.S. Patent No. 5,592,939. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Initially, Applicants note that Claims 48, 50, 51, and 53 are not identical to the claims in U.S. Patent No. 5,592,939 or U.S. Pat. App. No. 09/231,854. Though the claims are directed to similar subject matter, Applicants submit that they do not claim the same invention.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the interview granted with Applicants' representative on July 14, 2006. During the interview, Applicants' representative noted that the double-patenting rejection was made on U.S. Patent No. 5,592,939. Applicants' representative noted that the '939 patent is the patent upon which the present application is based and the present application is a re-issue application of the '939 patent. The Examiner then stated that the Double Patent Rejection would be maintained and be based on the U.S. Pat. App. No. 09/231,854 because it incorporated, without amendment, the claims included in U.S. Patent No. 5,592,939 unless claims 48, 50, 51, and 53 were amended or cancelled from the subject application. Applicants, as discussed with the Examiner in a telephone interview on July 31, 2006, by this amendment, cancel claims 48, 50, 51, and 53, thus the Double Patenting rejection based thereon should be rendered moot.

Therefore, Applicants request that the Examiner remove the double patenting rejection and allow each of the presently pending claims.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowance of Claims 34, 36-39, 52, and 56.

The Examiner states that Claims 49, 54, 55 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claim 49 has been amended into independent form including the limitations of the claim from which it depended. Claims 54 and 55 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 52, which has been indicated as allowed, and as such should also be in condition for allowance.

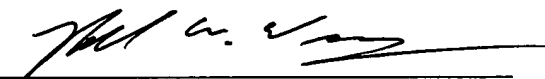
The Examiner also states that Claims 27, 29-31 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections set forth in this Office Action.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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